
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina ■ 5th District

News Release

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Spratt Announces Police Grant for Blacksburg

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that Blacksburg has won a \$105,585 grant from the Justice Department to hire a full-time police officer.

Spratt said the grant covers a three-year period with no local match required.

“This grant,” said Spratt, “is from the Justice Department’s COPS program — Community Oriented Policing Services. Community policing is making a difference in the lives of citizens across the nation. As we put more officers on the streets, we will continue to reduce crime in our communities.”

Spratt said that all of the officers hired with COPS grants work in community policing, a strategy that develops partnerships between law enforcement officers and the neighborhoods they serve in order to reduce crime. Many police chiefs, sheriffs, and criminal justice experts have credited community policing with the drop in crime rates across the nation.

To date, the COPS program has funded 100,000 community police officers nationwide, and over 100 officers in the 5th Congressional District of South Carolina. Last September, Blacksburg won a three-year \$150,000 grant under the program to hire two full-time officers.

Spratt and other members of Congress are working to continue the COPS program for an additional five years to add up to 50,000 more officers to the beat. The grant Spratt announced today for Blacksburg is part of the latest installment toward this goal.

“This particular grant, for \$105,585, will be awarded under the ‘COPS in Schools Program,’” said Spratt. “This type of grant is especially attractive to communities like Blacksburg because it is funded in full up to \$125,000 per officer over a three-year period. If the grant is less than \$125,000, as it is in this case, there is no local match required.”

Spratt said “COPS in Schools” grants were started because many communities are discovering that trained, sworn law enforcement officers assigned to schools make a difference. “These officers provide schools with on-site security and a direct link to local law enforcement agencies,” he said.

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